

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) joined community health advocates around the country in recognizing the Fourth Annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, organized around the theme "Together We Can! Open Your Heart to Make a Difference."

There are an estimated 4,356 APIAs living with AIDS, a 54% increase since 2000 – the largest percentage increase for any racial/ethnic group. APIAs have disproportionately higher rates of preventable diseases that are co-factors for HIV/AIDS - including hepatitis B and tuberculosis - than white Americans. While these statistics illustrate the need for HIV/AIDS information and services in APIA communities, there continues to be lack of data and research that will fully show the full impact of HIV/AIDS in APIA communities.

"The number of HIV/AIDS cases continues to rise among Asians and Pacific Islanders. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is committed to ensuring that adequate resources are provided for prevention, treatment, and research. Much more needs to be done to address HIV/AIDS," said Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Chair of the CAPAC Health Task Force. "We are working to eliminate the disparities in healthcare coverage and treatment by improving data collection and breaking down cultural and language barriers for our communities."

For more information on National APIA HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit the following website: <http://www.banyantreeproject.org/home.html> .

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The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is a bicameral and bipartisan caucus of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and Members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Founded in 1994 by then Congressman Norman Mineta, and currently chaired by Congressman Michael Honda, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac> .